

Message Text

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15

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-11 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

FAA-00 INR-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 PPTE-00 SS-20 NSC-07

COME-00 /093 W

----- 025449

O 300745Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ASMARA 0210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CGEN, BT

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

REF: ADDIS 3495, ASMARA 203 AND 206 (NOTAL)

1. AN ALIOTTE LAMA HELICOPTER (FRENCH MANUFACTURE), CANADIAN REGISTRY, OWNED BY CANWEST, CALGARY, CHARTERED TO TENNECO/ETHIOPIA, FOR EXPLORATION IN ERITREA, FAILED TO RETURN FROM FLIGHT FROM MASSAWA TO AILET ON MARCH 26. REPORTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE AND UNCONFIRMED UNTIL THURSDAY ABOUT 5:00 P.M. WHEN CONGEN ADVISED THAT CHARRED REMAINS OF AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN FOUND AT A LOCATION SOME DISTANCE FROM SCHEDULED LANDING POINT. THE HELICOPTER HAD DEPARTED MASSAWA FOR AILET AREA, AND DISAPPEARED ON RETURN TRIP. AILET IS A SMALL VILLAGE ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS WEST OF MASSAWA.

2. FIVE PERSONS, INCLUDING PILOT, WERE ON BOARD, AS FOLLOWS:

A. JOHN W. RODGERS, U.S. CITIZEN, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, TENNECO/ETHIOPIA;

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B. POWERS WILLIAM CAYCE, U.S. CITIZEN, EXPLORTATION MANAGER,

TENNECO/ETHIOPIA;

C. DONALD WEATHERFORD, CANADIAN, PRESIDENT OF CANWEST AND
PILOT OF HELICOPTER;

D. CLIFFORD, JAMES, CANADIAN, GEOLOGIST FOR TENNECO/ETHIOPIA;

E. MATTE TAVOLA, U.S. CITIZEN, GEOLOGIST EMPLOYED BY THE
IEG MINISTRY OF MINES, AND SERVING AS CONSULTANT TO TENNECO/
ETHIOPIA.

3. NO SIGNS OF PASSENGERS AT SITE OF BURNING, AND THEREFORE
BELIEVED UNHARMED IN CUSTODY OF INSURGENTS.

4. ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY E.P. BURTCHAELL, GENERAL
MANAGER, TENNECO/ETHIOPIA, WHO ARRIVED MARCH 28 TO
ASSUME CHARGE OF SEARCH OPERATIONS. MR. BURTCHAELL STATES
THAT ALL FAMILIES, EXCEPT MR. TAVOLA, HAVE BEEN ADVISED
AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THEM INFORMED THROUGH COMPANY
CHANNELS.

5. FOR ADDIS ABABA: MR. BURTCHAELL STATES THAT THE
SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES IN WHICH MR. TAVOLA
WORKS, IS HEADED BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN NAMED DR. TOOMBS,
WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING MR. TAVOLA'S FAMILY. EMBASSY
PLEASE CONTACT DR. TOOMBS REGARDING THE FAMILY,
AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.
PERRY

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